

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4041

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20803

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MNUC GW US

SUBJECT: SALT: FRG-US BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 299114; (B) STATE 298897;

(C) BONN 20133

SUMMARY. RUTH HAS GIVEN US THE PRELIMINARY FRG SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 20-21 CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS. END SUMMARY.

PARTICIPANTS

1. WE HAVE GIVEN RUTH THE FULL US LIST OF PARTICIPANTS PER REFTEL (A). RUTH INFORMED US THAT THE FRG DELEGATION WILL NOW CONSIST OF BLECH, RUTH, DANNENBRING, ROSSBACH (RECENTLY ASSIGNED TO RUTH'S DIVISION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO HANDLE SALT MATTERS), AND COLONEL SCHREIBER (DISARMAMENT SPECIALIST IN THE OFFICE OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE).

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

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2. ALL OF THE DELEGATION EXCEPT BLECH WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 19. BLECH GETS TO NEW YORK THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 20 AND IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON 12:08 P.M. HE MAY BE ABLE TO ADVANCE THIS ARRIVAL TIME. THE 3:00 P.M. STARTING TIME FOR THE MEETING IS AGREEABLE.

3. THE ENTIRE DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE WASHINGTON (NATIONAL AIRPORT) AT 2:00 P.M. DECEMBER 21 FOR NEW YORK, TO CONNECT WITH THE LUFTHANSA FLIGHT TO BONN. THEY WILL THUS NEED TO HAVE A QUICK LUNCH BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT. THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR A LIGHT MEAL AT THE DEPARTMENT.

AGENDA

4. RUTH HAS GIVEN US A PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE GERMANS ARE SUGGESTING FOR THE MEETING. THIS WILL ALSO BE CABLED TO THE FRG EMBASSY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. RUTH NOTED THAT THESE WERE THE PRELIMINARY IDEAS OF THE FRG AND THAT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TOPICS TO BE COVERED.

5. FOLLOWING IS THE FRG PROPOSED AGENDA:

A. AN ELABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE CONCEPT EXPRESSED BY THE SECRETARY AT NATO THAT SALT IS NOT JUST A NEGOTIATION BUT A NEGOTIATING PROCESS. DISCUSSION MIGHT INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE OVER-ALL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SALT.
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ALSO INCLUDED COULD BE A DISCUSSION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SALT AND MBFR AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH MBFR PLAYS A ROLE IN THIS "PROCESS."

B. SALT II DEVELOPMENTS: AN UPDATE ON ANY PROGRESS SINCE THE WARNKE BRIEFING IN BONN ON DECEMBER 2 (REF C).

C. SPECIFICS OF THE EUROPEAN INTEREST IN SALT:

-- CRUISE MISSILES: DEFINITION; THE DISTANCE QUESTION.

-- RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SALT II PROTOCOL AND SALT III (A CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION BEGUN

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NODIS

WITH WARNKE ON DECEMBER 2 AS TO HOW THE US
ENVISAGES REPLACEMENT OF THE PROTOCOL PROVISIONS
BY SALT III).

-- BACKFIRE (BRIEF DISCUSSION ONLY).

-- NON-CIRCUMVENTION: THE FRG HOPES TO BE ABLE TO
GIVE PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON FACTORS IT BELIEVES
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED (THIS DISCUSSION WOULD
REPLACE THE ONE RUTH HAD EARLIER
PROPOSED HOLDING IN GENEVA WITH WARNKE).

-- THE INTERPRETATION PROBLEM: FURTHER DISCUSSION
OF A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE FRG AT NATO IN THE
SUMMER, THAT THERE BE ADDED TO THE TREATY AN
INTERPRETATIVE DECLARATION OF WHAT IT MEANS.

-- DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OR INTENT: AN
ELABORATION OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT NATO
THAT THE QUESTION WAS STILL OPEN AND THAT IT
MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE UNILATERAL
DECLARATIONS BY THE TWO SIDES.

D. POSSIBLE CONTENT OF SALT III.

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E. STRUCTURING CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE NATO ALLIES:
AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HOW ALLIED
CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED FOR
SALT III (A SEPARATE QUESTION FROM THE PROPOSED

QUADRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS).

F. PRESS HANDLING: HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN SALT WHICH THE PRESS PLAYS UP PROMINENTLY (RUTH STATED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT FOR PREVENTING MISUNDERSTANDING AND UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM; HE NOTED THAT THE GERMAN PRESS PICKS UP MATERIAL FROM THE US PRESS AND QUESTIONS THE FRG, WHICH OFTEN DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THE INFORMATION STEMS FROM BACKGROUNDERS OR FROM LEAKS AND IS THEREFORE HAMPERED IN ITS ABILITY TO DEFLECT CRITICISM).

FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS

6. ASKED TO CLARIFY HOW THE FRG VIEWED NEXT WEEK'S CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FRG PROPOSAL FOR FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS, RUTH SAID THIS MEETING WOULD REPLACE THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING THE FRG HAD INITIALLY HOPED MIGHT TAKE PLACE BEFORE CHRISTMAS BUT WHICH NOW HAD BEEN DEFERRED PENDING A FRENCH DECISION. THE FRG WOULD STILL HOPE A QUADRIPARTITE MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY. WE ALSO ASKED ABOUT GERMAN PLANS FOR INFORMING THE BRITISH OF THE WASHINGTON MEETING, TO WHICH RUTH RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT PROPOSE AT THE MOMENT TO INFORM THE UK. HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON WHAT SHOULD BE SAID TO THE BRITISH, AND ALSO TO THE FRENCH.

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7. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR ANY RESPONSE THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO MAKE TO THE FRG AGENDA SUGGESTIONS. STOESSEL

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